

# SPORTS

## SOVIET GYMNASTS IN PEKING

Yuri Balabanov, Alexander Tumilovich, Stepan Martinkiv, Alexei Tikhonikhin, Vera Kolesnikova, Yelena Shushunova, Tatyana Frolova and Albina Shchennikova, of the USSR, will attend an international gymnastics competition in Peking on April 20-26. The event will include the obligatory and free programmes.

China has developed into a most formidable rival. Significantly, at the last world championship in Budapest in October 1973, China's men won the team event 0.1 points ahead of the USSR.

Doubtless, the forthcoming event will figure prominently in preparations for the Los Angeles Olympics.

The national championship is drawing to a close in Donetsk. The top allrounders and teams are already known (this year they were composed of members of sports clubs).

Vladimir Artyomov, from Vladimir, won his first title. In late March he and Yuri Korolyov shared first place at the International "Moscow News"-84 Tournament.

Second-placed Mikhail Kokorin, from Moscow, was ninth in the above tournament; Korolyov placed third.

The Soviet gymnasts now in Peking did well in Donetsk and, barring their departure in line from a previous accord, changes could be made in the men's and women's prize-winner lists.

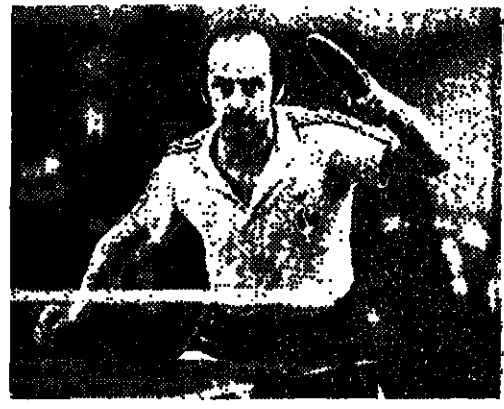
Natalya Ilyenko, from Alma-Ata, also captured her first ever all-round title. Olga Mostepanova ran up to her, ceding victory literally in the last minutes of the protracted event. Irina Barakanova, from Tashkent, a fast improving gymnast and a favourite with the crowds, placed third.

The Dynamo team (Balabanov, Artyomov, Kokorin, Tumilovich, Baranov, and Miller) won the men's team event, and the Armed Forces team of Bicherova, Shushunova, Barakanova, Ivanova, Kharisova and Martynenko won the women's event.

Now the gymnasts will compete in the individual events and then the time will come to sum up this grand event, which attracted 144 entrants.



The winning teams' leaders, Valentina Popova of the USSR, and Jacques Secrétin of France, in action. Photos by Andrei Knyazev



## SPECTACLE OF SMALL RACKETS

No records are registered in table tennis, but the 14th European championship now under way in Moscow aroused unshared interest among the press. A record 220 Soviet and 160 foreign correspondents from 25 European, Asian, African and American nations are accredited at its press centre. The participants justify this interest from the press and the numerous viewers by showing keen competition. This is a gripping tournament.

The USSR won its fifth women's title, Valentina Popova, Marina Anisimova, Anita Zakharova and Fyura Bulatova beat Yugoslavia 3-0 in the finals. Last year champions, Hungary, placed third.

The winning team leader, Valentina Popova from Baku, said that winning a team tournament requires a well-balanced team, which was exactly the case with the Soviet side. The four-hour men's final between France and Poland were charged with high drama. The more experienced French team featuring masters like 35-year-old European ex-champion, Jacques Secrétin, and 29-year-old, Patrick Briocheau, ultimately won through, 5-3. Sweden placed third. The USSR came in sixth, moving up three places compared with the previous championship.

Individual competition is now afoot. The championship winds up on April 22.

## Test game lost

In their dress rehearsal for the Olympic football tournament crucial elimination game with Hungary, the USSR lost to visiting Czechoslovakia 0-1 in Sochi, though a goalless draw would have been a more logical outcome — as the game was fairly uneventful. Though, occasionally there was some fast attacking work it never ended by attempts to shoot a goal. The guests scored the only goal of the match from a penalty in the first half.

The passes and shots at the goal were very inaccurate.

Significantly, the visiting team looked much more self-confident, both in possession of the ball and without it. The only promising showings in the Soviet team were made by Pudyshov and Litovchenko, who looked for openings, but were let down by their partners.

Hopefully, the Soviet coaches and players will learn the right lesson from this game before their match vs Hungary.

Gennady LEONOV

## End of season for winter swimmers

This photo was taken during the traditional "Russian Winter Send-Off" festival, which rounds off the winter swimming season for lovers of "breaking the ice" in the Leningrad and Lenin districts of Moscow. Last Sunday, they and their families went to the Iskra Reservoir outside Moscow to take a final dip in the icy water.

The club of "waifuses" (as these lovers of winter swimming are called in Russian) has been operating for fifteen years under the guidance of the Federation for Winter Swimming of the Leningrad District of Moscow. 70-year-old Zinaida Dushkina, a pensioner, has enjoyed perfect health ever since she began swimming each winter in 1960. And Mikhail Serbinov, the father of seven-year-old Gena, had the following comment:

Several years ago, doctors detected signs of tuberculosis in my son. We began to toughen up our boy and came to the club. Now he is absolutely healthy, and swims with me all year round in any weather.

Even though winter is over, the members of the "waifuses" club will continue with swimming while



putting greater emphasis on running and aerobic exercises. Yevgeniya CHASOVNIKOVA

The last of the ice. Photo by Alexander Shteyn

## GDR Olympic Committee's concern

Profound concern in view of the situation which has arisen over the preparations for the Olympic Games in Los Angeles has been expressed by the National Olympic Committee of the German Democratic Republic. In an open letter published in Berlin by the GDR Olympic President, Manfred Ewald addressed to the president of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee it is stated that during visits made by the official GDR NOC delegates to Los Angeles and return visits by representatives of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee to the German Democratic Republic, the two sides discussed ways of solving outstanding problems. Yet as of today, these agreements remain to be implemented due to violations of the Charter, serious difficulties arise.

At the 87th session of the Sarajevo, the American Olympic Committee declared that the United States Olympic Committee would be effected in its relations with the Olympic Charter. However, the officials of the United States Olympic Committee, including the President of the Olympic Committee, the German Democratic Republic, demand presentation of a list for the granting of visas for the athletes of the German Democratic Republic. In the position of the GDR Olympic Committee still has to be taken into account the tradition of the Olympic Games.

This was stressed during the meeting between Konstantin Chernenko and the President of the Republic of Finland Mauno Koivisto, who is in the Soviet Union for a holiday at the invitation of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Konstantin Chernenko noted that the Soviet leadership will continue to pay special attention to consolidating friendly relations with Finland. There is ample room for developing relations between the USSR and Finland along the path of strong friendship, mutual trust and all-round cooperation to the mutual benefit of the Soviet and Finnish peoples.

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## K. Chernenko meets Mauno Koivisto

The beneficial development of cooperation between the USSR and Finland against a background of growing world tension convincingly proves the viability of the policy of the peaceful co-existence of states with different social systems, as well as the importance of the steady implementation of the clauses of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

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## AFTER THE FLIGHT

I look forward with impatience to going home and to meeting my parents. They are awaiting for us in India. My friends will be witnesses of the great and joyous holiday of Indo-Soviet friendship.

Thus spoke Rakesh Sharma the first Indian cosmonaut. The Odyssey of the heroes of space continues here on Earth. I talked to Sharma at a reception at the Indian Embassy in Moscow given in honour of the Soviet and Indian cosmonauts. During the function, Ambassador S. Nurul Hasan presented Academician Vladimir Kotelnikov, Chairman of the Interkosmos Council, with a gift from the Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi—a model of our planet with a spaceship soaring above it.

But at the same time, Rakesh Sharma continued, I feel sad at having to leave the Soviet Union. During the two years that I have lived here, I have been able to pick up a certain amount of Russian, and this has helped me to get to know better the Soviet people—a great people, warm-hearted and hospitable. The memory of the Soviet

(Continued on page 2)



Rakesh Sharma, the first Indian cosmonaut (centre right) and his back-up Ravish Malhotra meeting students at the Patrice Lumumba Peoples' Friendship University in Moscow. Photo by Alexei Fyodorov

## FILMS FROM THREE CONTINENTS

The 8th International Film Festival of Asia, Africa and Latin America, which is to open on May 23 in the Uzbek capital Tashkent, was the subject of discussion at a press conference held at the Soviet Foreign Ministry press centre.

Statistics show that this festival, which takes place every other year, enjoys a growing authority in the world of cinema. This year, more than fifty countries have announced their intention of taking part plus five international organizations — the United Nations, UNESCO, the African National Congress, the Palestine Liberation Organization,

and the Patriotic Forces of Chile.

Nearly two hundred feature films, documentaries and films on popular science are to be shown during the course of the festival, with more entries still being received. At the official viewing, the Soviet Union is to present nine films produced by studios from the Transcaucasian republics, Central Asia, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

As in previous years a film market will be held as part of the festival. Negotiations will be continued on joint film pro-

(Continued on page 2)

## Diplomats are briefed on our school reform

As of January 1, 1983, there were 113 persons with a higher and 745 with a secondary education per every thousand of the working adult population in this country.

The USSR has achieved the following all-important goals: equal education in terms of quality and quantity for all men and women, nations and nationalities of the land. The education gap between urban and rural inhabitants has been narrowed.

The forthcoming reform is by no means to be considered as a fundamental reorganization of the Soviet school system, which continues successfully to carry out its noble function. It is rather aimed at gearing the training received at school towards future requirements and at introducing a novel, broader and more balanced approach to education and upbringing.

There was widespread discussion of the draft reform, involving some 120,000,000 people.

The government is setting aside 11,000 million roubles towards the reform, 3,500 million of which will go in annual rises in salaries for teaching personnel.

These figures were cited at a meeting between the heads of foreign diplomatic missions accredited to the USSR and USSR Education Minister Mikhail Prokofiev, arranged by the Protocol Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry. Prokofiev described the

essence of the reform and its chief goals.

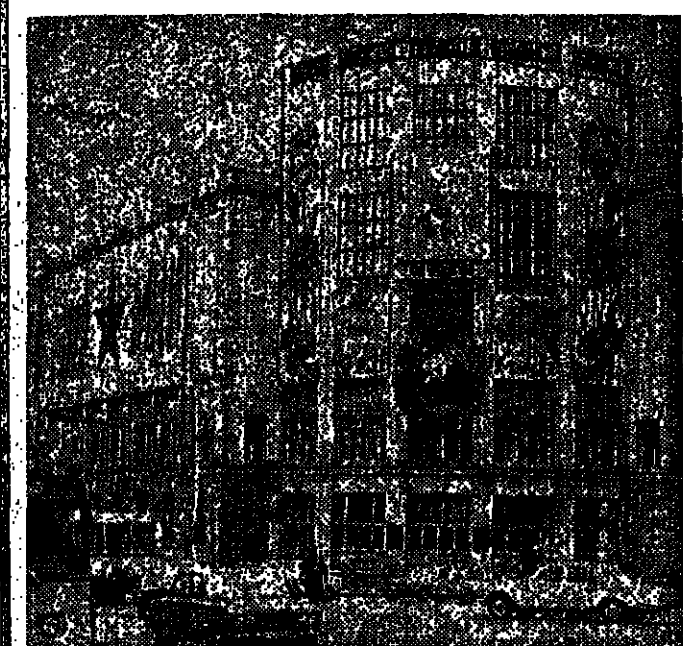
The diplomats were also briefed on the basic trends of the reform approved during nationwide discussion, and on the practical measures which are to be taken for its implementation.

## 35 YEARS OF STRUGGLE FOR PEACE

War veteran and worker Turdibol Takiyev from Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan, launched a peace appeal on his own initiative and began to collect signatures to it from among the residents of the city.

(Continued on page 2)

## MOSCOW SIGNS



Getting ready to celebrate the May 1 holiday, Muscovites decorate the streets of their city. This photo shows the Central Telegraph building in Gorky Street.



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## THE WORLD

### CIA BEHIND BOMB BLUST IN ANGOLA

Havana. Mass rallies and meetings have been organized by the working people in Cuba in protest at a report from Angola of a new crime committed by UNITA bandits who blew up an 11-story building in the town of Huambo containing Cuban workers, teachers and doctors. The explosion killed 14 Cubans and ten Angolans, among them women and children.

The "Granma" paper stresses that this act of sabotage was clearly masterminded by the CIA.

London. The CIA and South Africa's intelligence services are behind the bomb blast in Huambo. Such is the general belief current here in view of a secret agreement between the Reagan administration and the South African Government on joint action to destabilize the situation in Angola, which came to light recently. According to "The Observer" newspaper, it was concluded late last year at a secret meeting between a special US representative and emissaries of South Africa's military command and intelligence, as well as UNITA ringleaders and an adviser at the Israeli military mission in Zaire.

"The Observer" states that the Washington envoy instructed the UNITA and other counter-revolutionary groupings to intensify their armed action and economic sabotage, promising them more arms and financial aid, as well as support from South African regular army units.



What a wonderful testing range for our missiles!  
Drawing by Yuri Ivanov

### SPEECH BY BABRAK KARMAL

Kabul. The April Revolution represents a new departure in the many centuries old history of Afghanistan. A new social and political system has been set up in the country. This was stressed by Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, in his address to an official meeting marking the sixth anniversary of the April Revolution.

Karmal stressed that the fraternal international alliance with the USSR and other socialist countries guarantees the defence of the gains of the April Revolution, and the preservation of Afghanistan's independence and sovereignty.

As an active member of the non-alignment movement, the DRA supported and continues to support all peoples struggling for freedom and independent development, against imperialism and colonialism.

The DRA considers as useful the efforts by Diego Cordova, the personal representative of the UN Secretary-General, aimed at seeking the way to a political settlement of the Afghanistan issue. B. Karmal voiced the hope that the next round of the talks in Geneva will yield tangible results. It should be noted, he said, that

the search for settlement would have been considerably speeded up had the parties concerned agreed to hold direct talks.

The DRA, said Karmal, firmly opposes the policy of the imperialist forces, led by the USA, that is aimed at aggravation of international tension.

### ISRAEL ARMS SOMOZA MEN

Tel Aviv. Israel is actively helping the USA to supply the CIA-led Nicaraguan contras with weapons and ammunition, claimed an Israeli Knesset opposition deputy, stating that an agreement had been concluded to this effect as early as 1982.

Israeli gun-runners have a long history of links with the Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries, who consist mainly of former Somoza men. Israeli Arava planes were used to carry out mass bombing attacks on the civilian population of Managua, Matagalpa and other cities. Israeli deliveries have again spiralled recently owing to tough US congressional opposition to the Reagan administration plans to increase funding for the bandit groups.

### PURPOSE OF REAGAN'S VISIT TO CHINA

Washington. According to the American press, Reagan's visit to China is linked to the United States' intention of solving a number of outstanding political and economic problems in its relations with that country.

By making use of Peking's line in South East Asia, Washington seeks to draw China more actively into the United States-Japan-South Korea military triangle. It is knocking together in the Far East.

ABC television notes in this connection that during his talks with the Chinese leaders, Reagan will discuss the need for cooperation in confronting the USSR. CBS television in turn stressed that Reagan, speaking about the need for Sino-American cooperation, made it quite clear that such relations must have an anti-Soviet bias.

### New government for Lebanon

Beirut. The Lebanese President Amrille Gemayel has asked the former Prime Minister and prominent political leader Raichid Karame, to form a new government. To date R. Karame has stood at the head of nine Lebanese governments. He was one of the founding fathers of the National Salvation Front of Lebanon which unites the patriotic forces opposed to the Israeli occupation and stands for the implementation of sweeping social and political reforms.

R. Karame has now stated consultations to form a government of national accord.

### After the flight

(Continued from page 1)

people and my friends, the Soviet cosmonauts, will always warm my heart.

What are my plans? I will go back to my previous job as a test pilot. My knowledge and experience of the conquest of space may also come in handy. But this is a question which will be decided later on, said Rakoshi Sharma.

I asked Yuri Malyshev, commander of the Soviet-Indian expedition, and Georgi Gorchiko, member of the standby crew (which included the Indian back-up cosmonaut Ravish Malhotra) for their impressions of Sharma.

G. Gorchiko: During the training period on the Black Sea coast, Rakoshi Sharma was in our crew. He is a capable modest and goal-oriented man. In character, he reminds me of my Yuri Gagarin.

Yu. Malyshev: Rakoshi Sharma and Ravish Malhotra, in my view, embody the very best features of the Indian people. We visualized our crew—first the three of us and later the six of us in orbit in outer space—as representing a model of the relations between the Soviet and Indian peoples, relations of trust, friendship and readiness to come to each other's aid.

Igor DANILIN

### FILMS FROM THREE CONTINENTS

(Continued from page 1)

ductions. And there are many such projects in the offing. India, as always, features prominently among the Soviet Union's permanent partners in this field. In the interval between festivals, the two countries reproduce one of two films. During the festival, they will premiere "Legend of Love" and hold talks on a future coproduction. "Ceraala Lelelele", the Japanese coproduction, "The Siberian Wolf", will also be discussed. Previously the two countries limited their cooperation to production and screenwork. Cooperation continues with the film makers of Afghanistan, Mexico, Kampuchea, Cuba and Nicaragua.

Another regular feature of the festival is the discussion of the role of cinema in modern life.

For the first time, the festival programme will include a retrospective showing of films made by famous directors from the three continents — Miral San, from India, Kaneto Shindo, from Japan, and Nelson Pereira dos Santos, from Brazil.

The first ever entries for the festival have been received from the Ivory Coast and the African National Congress.

Larisa SEDLETSEVAYA

### 35 years of struggle for peace

(Continued from page 1)

In just one year he collected 32,000 signatures. His home-made book of the signatures, nearly half a metre in size, was displayed at a Moscow press conference recently by Chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee Yuri Zhukov. The conference was held to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the 1st World Congress of the Partisans of Peace.

Our committee was set up after this congress which took place in Paris and Prague in late April, 1948. Today, our committee has a network of 10 committee branches in the republics, territories and regions (120 altogether) and many specialists and prominent figures in the arts are among its members. Several committees are dealing with specific matters relating with the issue of peace. It is a committee for addition to a committee for contacts with religious circles.

Our chief goal is to mobilize public opinion in the struggle against the threat of war and to publicize the "peaceful" policy pursued by the USSR. Our effort is part of the world campaign for disarmament proclaimed by the UN.

## THE WORLD

### SIX YEARS OF CREATION AND STRUGGLE



Soviet Niva combine harvesters have arrived at Pull Humari, one of the seven machine and tractor stations built in Afghanistan with help from the Soviet Union. A teacher from the Afghan village of Chur tells his pupils about the history of their country.

The results of the economic activities of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in the six years since the April Revolution have been published in Kabul.

National income has increased by 6.3 per cent, and production of the GNP by six per cent. The head of the Afghan Government Sultan Ali Roshdmand has described these figures as "testimony of the country's genuine development".

Changes have affected all spheres of life in Afghan society. The main achievement is the elimination of the foundations of feudal and semi-

feudal relations. As a result of the land and water reform, more than 300,000 peasants have become owners of plots of land of their own for the first time.

The Provisional Constitution ensures for all Moslems freedom to practise their religion.

The successes of the Afghan people in the construction of a new life would be even more impressive if they were not hindered by the international reactionaries, with the United States at their head, who have unleashed an undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

### Contrary to the interests of the peoples of Indochina

Phnom Penh. The Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Army vigilantly guards the sacred frontiers of its Motherland and is ready to repulse all those who attempt to encroach on the sovereignty or territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, declared Chea Soth, member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

The crushing blows which the republic's armed forces and Vietnamese volunteers have dealt to

Pol Pot gangsters and other khmer reactionaries must serve as a severe lesson to all those who are out to reverse the development of events in the country, and to restore the genocidal regime, he noted.

Deliberately aggravating the situation on the Kampuchean-Thai border, Kampuchean enemies are seeking to impede peaceful settlement of problems in relations between the states of Indochina and the ASEAN nations. These intrigues go against the interests of the peoples of the region who want peace and stability, said Chea Soth. The

only way to solve all controversial issues and to achieve peace in South-East Asia is by constructive dialogue on the basis of complete equality and mutual respect for interests for which the countries of Indochina have called more than once.

### Pretoria's desire for peace hypocritical

Addis Ababa. The South African apartheid regime intends to continue its repressive policy and also to pursue its intimidation and aggression with regard to neighbouring states, a press conference in Addis Ababa was told by A. Nto, general secretary of the African National Congress of South Africa. The hypocrisy of declarations made by the regime that it desires to live in peace with its neighbours, was revealed once again when a military budget was submitted to the South African parliament providing for another substantial rise in expenditure on the army and police.

The so-called "peace" agreement which the South African regime is thrusting upon neighbouring countries, Nto went on, is aimed at protecting the system of apartheid and against the offensive of the forces of national liberation in the south of Africa, led by the African National Congress and SWAPO.

### Science and technology

#### LET SUN DRIVE YOU

The British engineer, Alan Freeman, 70, has designed a bicycle driven by solar power. A block of 192 semiconductors fixed on the machine catches solar power and sends it to batteries, which supply electricity to the electric motor. The bike can roll at 25 kilometres per hour in sunshine.

#### FIRE-FIGHTING ANTS

French zoologists have carried out an interesting experiment with ants. They threw a burning candle into a forest ant-heap. All the insects immediately rushed to the fire and began to

## FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

### SOUTH KOREA: PUNITIVE TROOPS TRAINED

Hardly had Team Spirit-84, the American-South Korean war games, ended with 200,000 people taking part, when another alarm signal was sounded in the American and South Korean barracks, writes Vsevolod Ovchinnikov, PRAVDA's political observer. This time, in place of an imaginary enemy from abroad, the regime in Seoul and its patrons from across the Atlantic are openly rehearsing punitive actions against the internal enemy. During the Milgon-84 manoeuvres, the South Korean army and police are perfecting interaction with American troops in combat against so-called terrorists.

The Milgon-84 manoeuvres have begun against the background of an outbreak of another wave of student unrest in South Korea, the author notes.

In Seoul and Washington they remember that it was student disturbances that set off the chain of events as a result of which Syngman Rhee was overthrown in the 60s, and Park Chung Hee in the 80s.

### A 'DOCTRINE' FOR PIRACY

Commenting on Directive No. 138 on "the fight against terrorism", signed by President Reagan, IZVESTIA's political observer V. Malyshev writes:

The actions already taken in this direction by ruling circles in the USA show the degree to which their policy threatens the world. They encouraged the Israeli military to carry out a large-scale invasion of Lebanon, and then sent the United States Navy to the shores of Lebanon to shell Beirut and its environs, and to bomb other parts of the country. They form and arm counter-revolutionary gangs against the legitimate Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. They hatch plans for the use of military force in the Gulf region. They resort to military provocation against Libya. They are expanding their direct involvement in the affairs of the countries of Central America and they threaten Cuba.

Having launched a campaign against the elementary norms of international law, and by advancing the notorious "doctrine" of piracy disguised as a "struggle against terrorism", the ruling circles of the United States of America could well bring mankind to the brink of an abyss, the author stresses.

### THE RED CARNATIONS ARE BLOOMING

There are people today who maintain that the red carnation—the symbol of the Portuguese Revolution of 1974—have faded, that the game, perhaps, was not worth the candle, says retired general Vasco Gonçalves, former Prime Minister of Portugal, in an interview published in SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA. Many guins, it is alleged, have been eliminated, and what remains is being furiously attacked. Such rumours are being circulated by those who are trying to discredit and to demobilize the popular masses. I want to stress that our carnations are now blossoming, and not only in the parks and gardens of Lisbon. They are alive in the hearts of millions of ordinary people. Speaking about the foreign policy of the present government, Vasco Gonçalves says: I cannot but be alarmed at the close military cooperation between our authorities and Washington and NATO. The foreign military are gaining access with growing ease to Portuguese territory.

And yet, I have no doubt that the future of Portugal, despite crude pressure from outside, depends on one hundred per cent on the united action of our democratic forces, and the people's determination to fight to the end, the general stresses.

### WEREWOLVES FROM THE DUSH

This is how TASS's political observer S. Kulikov describes, in an article he contributed to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, the UNITA gangs who are in the pay of the Soviet African and American special services. Fostered by FSB, the Russian secret police, and then reborn by the American Central Intelligence Agency, UNITA, the author notes, was born as a strictly tribal organization relying on the leaders of the Ovimbundu tribe, a people inhabiting the South-Eastern parts of Angola. Jonas Savimbi himself, who traces his genealogy back to the traditional tribal leaders—witch doctors, sorcerers and rain diviners—stresses feelings of tribal solidarity in his work with the masses even though he studied in Europe acquiring the title of doctor of medical and political sciences. But his European education was not to help him find supporters for long. Over the past few months, Kulikov writes, the socio-political physiognomy of UNITA has changed, and it has become a sort of gutter for all those rejected by the people's power, and deprived of their illegal gain and political privileges. Today, it is class rather than ethnic interests that unite under J. Savimbi's black banners Angolan counter-revolutionaries, separatists, former landowners, traders, black-marketeers, usurers and even criminals.

## VIEWPOINT

Oleg SVETLAKOV

# STATE TERRORISM LEGALIZED

President Reagan has signed national security directive No. 138 calling for preventive strikes as well as raids against terrorists abroad. It also permits the use of special FBI and CIA armed groups and army units. 26 Federal departments were asked for their recommendations on the implementation of this "new policy".

The White House is going to ask Congress to give the directive the status of a legal act. The "Los Angeles Times" recalls in this connection an appeal by State Secretary, George Shultz, that active defensive action be taken against terrorism.

The paper, however, was inaccurate in dubbing the directive a "new policy". Washington

used to charge Cuban leaders with "terrorism" and the CIA used this pretext to send marauding killers to Havana. The present administration accuses the Sandinista Government of "exporting terrorism"—and has unleashed a campaign of terror against the Nicaraguan people. The mining of Nicaragua's coastal waters is yet another instance of state terrorism which Washington has been practising for decades.

In a wide context the USA took action five years ago to increase the scope of large-scale international terrorism by launching the notorious "rapid deployment force", special armed units designed for operations abroad in developing nations in the event that domestic

developments in these countries posed, in Washington's view, a "threat to US vital interests". The force was used for the first time last October to topple the Popular Government in Grenada.

There are, however, novel aspects about the signing of directive No. 138. In the first place, it amounts admission by the president himself that the FBI is conducting active operations abroad even though this is prohibited by law. From now on the USA will engage in terrorist acts on foreign soil with redoubled effort.

Significant, too, is the timing of Reagan's signing of the document. His Central American policy and especially the crude

interference in Nicaraguan affairs meet with growing criticism. International observers are expressing concern that Reagan might try for a "small victorious military campaign" abroad in the run-up to the November elections to create the semblance of a "strong president" advancing US interests.

It is fairly clear that America's real interest would not be advanced by escalation of world tension or actions which might plunge the country into a "new Vietnam". It is no accident that — for the first time in US history — a group of Senators used their powers to demand the assignment of a special prosecutor to investigate whether the administration has breached the law on neutrality (Incidentally, violation of this law is punishable by up to three years in prison, while presidential candidates, Jesse Jackson, raised the issue of Reagan's impeachment).

Directive No. 138 is yet another indication of Washington's desire to dictate its terms to sovereign nations, to engage in overt aggression and in crude tampering with the generally recognized norms of international law.

### MEMORIAL TO GANGSTERISM

Washington. The national town planning commission here has approved plans for the construction of yet another memorial. This time the Reagan administration wants to honour the memory of all those who have served in the Navy.

There is nothing accidental about the White House recalling the "exploits" of the Navy. According to the Brookings Institution, as of 1970 the naval forces were used in 117 out of 215 cases when the USA solved world problems by pressure,

blackmail and aggression. The most recent page in the chronicles of the bloody atrocities perpetrated by the American "police" of the sea, was "written" off the coast of long-suffering Lebanon by 30 warships.

The administration is showing "concern" not only for the past but also for the future of its Navy, regarding it as a major instrument of foreign policy. It plans to increase the number of warships to at least 600 by 1990.

## OF INTEREST

### Kangaroo shoes

"Kangaroo shoes", with which one can make pretty big leaps, is a new form of entertainment in Belgium.

The whole secret is that strong springs are built in the soles.

### Rose without thorns

A rose without thorns created a sensation at a flower fair in Frankfurt am Main, West Germany. It took 200 attempts to develop it over a period of twenty years.







